

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Robert R. Bigelow of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Robert R. Bigelow, a retired general surgeon and committed public servant of Anderson County; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bigelow was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bigelow served the people of Oak Ridge with acumen and compassion as one of the city's much-valued surgeons for more than thirty years, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and patients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bigelow was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on February 3, 1919, the son of the late Cornelia and Charles Glenford Bigelow; he was a 1936 graduate of the University of Chicago, where he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bigelow served his country with great honor and distinction in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1945 to 1947; he later completed his residency in general surgery at Billings Hospital in Chicago in 1949 just before relocating to Oak Ridge with his family; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bigelow shall be fondly remembered by his friends and neighbors who, for over a decade, gathered each holiday season at the Bigelow family home at 103 Norris Lane for the lighting of the magnificent blue spruce tree in the front yard and the festive caroling that followed; and

WHEREAS, very active in civic affairs and community activities, Dr. Bigelow chaired the Oak Ridge Board of Education for an admirable 10 years; he also served as the first President of Contact, and on the Parenting Board of Directors, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors,

and the United Fund Board of Directors; for his dedication and achievements, in 1979 Dr. Bigelow received the “Columbus Award”, an annual presentation by the local Knights of Columbus to Oak Ridgers who have distinguished themselves in service to the community; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime, Dr. Bigelow was the recipient of many additional honors, including those bestowed by organizations such as Alpha Omega Alpha and Sigma Xi; he had been selected a Fellow of the American Society of Surgeons, and a Fellow of the Southeastern Surgical Congress; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bigelow was an active and devout member of the Faith Lutheran Church, which he served dutifully for many years on the Board of Elders and as a member of the choir; his unfaltering faith fortified and underpinned his dedication to healing others, as exemplified by his inclusion of prayer in his pre-surgery preparations; and

WHEREAS, an extremely talented and highly respected surgeon, Dr. Bigelow also possessed musical gifts, which he exhibited as a member of the Oak Ridge Community Band and the Oak Ridge Symphony, in addition to his choir service; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his constancy of faith, Dr. Bigelow was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bigelow was blessed with the loving companionship of his wife, Marlys Groth, for 60 wonderful years and was the proud father of Robert Bigelow, Jr., Dr. William Bigelow and his wife, Kathleen, Dr. James Bigelow and his wife, Mary Anne, Mary Huntoon and her husband Dan, and Anne Bigelow; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bigelow is also survived by his beloved grandchildren, Thomas, Jonathan, Andrew and William Huntoon; Robert, Mathew and Amy Bigelow; and Sarah, Adam and Hannah Bigelow, as well as many loving nieces and nephews, and a brother and sister-in-law, Jack Bigelow and his wife, Laurie; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bigelow leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional physician and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Robert R. Bigelow, gifted surgeon, devoted family man, and model servant of the Lord, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Robert R. Bigelow.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.